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EXAMINER SANDERS, AARON J				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,327

Applicant(s)

LANG ET AL.

Examiner

AARON SANDERS

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 October 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3 November 2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed 6 October 2008 has been entered. Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-16 are pending. Claim 1 is currently amended. Claims 2, 13, and 17-33 are cancelled. No claims are new. This action is NON-FINAL.

Drawings

The amendment to the drawings filed 6 October 2008 has been entered.

Specification

The amendment to the specification filed 6 October 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Powers et al., U.S. 6,901,426 (“Powers”), in view of Hansen et al., U.S. 6,886,016 (“Hansen”), and in view of Microsoft Computer Dictionary Fifth Edition, Microsoft Press, 2002 (“Microsoft”).

1. Powers teaches *“A computer program product, tangibly embodied in one or more information storage devices, for tailoring the storage of information, the computer program product comprising instructions operable to cause one or more data processing apparatuses to,”* see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 29-40, “In this way, access privileges may be easily updated and maintained for the user in response to changes in allowed services or organizational structure.”

Powers teaches *“a first field to be included in the tailored object class definition,”* see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, a second field identifies a level or member associated with the user by the level or member ID,” where the claimed “first field” is, for example, a referenced “second field” with the value “company.”

Powers teaches *“a second field to be included in the tailored object class definition,”* see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, a second field identifies a level or member associated with

the user by the level or member ID,” where the claimed “second field” is, for example, a referenced “second field” with the value “Sales Group.”

Powers teaches “*a first user or group of users,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID,” where the claimed “first user” is, for example, “User 10.”

Powers teaches “*and a second user or group of users,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID,” where the claimed “second user” is, for example, “User 35.”

Powers teaches “*tailor the object class definition to include the first field and the second field,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 8, lines 21-31, “The user view table 140 may be manually populated by the system administrator or other user having suitable access privileges or may be generated based on the organizational structure defined by the organization tables 82.”

Powers teaches “*associate a first identifier with the first field to identify that the first user or group of users is to be excluded from a first activity that involves the first field,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, ... and a fourth field enables the stored association between a user and a level or member in the user’s view,” where the claimed “first identifier” is the referenced “N” in the “Allowed” column of “User 10’s” “Company” field.

Powers teaches “*associate a second identifier with the second field to identify that the second user or group of users is to be excluded from a second activity that involves the second field,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, ... and a fourth field enables the stored association

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between a user and a level or member in the user's view," where the claimed "second identifier" is the referenced "N" in the "Allowed" column of "User 35's" "Sales Group" field.

Powers does not explicitly teach "*present a user with options for tailoring an object class definition.*" Hansen does, however, see Figs. 2, 2A, and col. 3, line 57 – col. 4, line 5, "Next, in step 106, the user [selects] a plurality of attributes associated with the index class. As shown in FIG. 2A, the user can select from a list of available or existing attributes (key fields) 170," where the claimed "object class definition" is the referenced "index class." Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because Hansen's teachings would have allowed Powers' method to gain the ability to create or modify an object class, see Hansen col. 4, lines 31-41, which permits a user to easily and affordably adapt programming modules, see Microsoft Object-oriented design.

Powers does not explicitly teach "*receive user input for tailoring the object class definition in response to the presentation of options, the user input identifying.*" Hansen does, however, see Fig. 2A and col. 3, line 57 – col. 4, line 5, "Thus, in FIG. 2A, the user has defined the index class Patient." Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because Hansen's teachings would have allowed Powers' method to gain the ability to create or modify an object class, see Hansen col. 4, lines 31-41, which permits a user to easily and affordably adapt programming modules, see Microsoft Object-oriented design.

Powers does not explicitly teach “*and instantiate an object from the tailored object class definition, the instantiated object including the association of the first identifier with the first field and the association of the second identifier with the second field.*” Microsoft does, however, see Instantiate, “To create an instance of a class,” Instance, “An object... in relation to the class to which it belongs,” and Class, “a generalized category that describes a group of more specific items, called objects, that can exist within it. A class is a descriptive tool used in a program to define a set of attributes... that characterize any member (object) of the class. Program classes are comparable in concept to the categories that people use to organize information about their world, such as animal, vegetable, and mineral, that define the types of entities they include and the ways those entities behave.” Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because Microsoft’s teachings would have allowed Powers’ method to gain easily and affordably adaptable programming modules, see Microsoft Object-oriented design. Powers does teach “*wherein during data processing activities, the instantiated object excludes the first user or group of users from the first activity and the second user or group of users from the second activity,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 29-40, “The privilege tables 84 assign each user a view and a class of services. The view specifies the levels and members of an organizational structure to which the user is allowed access... The user has access privileges to perform services within the user’s class of services for levels and members within the user’s view.”

3. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the instructions cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to receive user input*

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identifying a role that the first user or group of users plays in an operation,” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, ... a third field identifies whether the item in the second field is a level or a member,” where the claimed “role” is the referenced “member.”

4. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the instructions cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to associate an identifier of the role with the first field,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, ... a third field identifies whether the item in the second field is a level or a member,” where the claimed “identifier” is the referenced “M.”

5. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the instructions cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to receive user input identifying a fieldgroup that includes the first field,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 29-40, “In this way, access privileges may be easily updated and maintained for the user in response to changes in allowed services or organizational structure.”

6. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the instructions cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to: receive first user input identifying the first field and the second field from a first individual,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 29-40, “In this way, access privileges may be easily updated and maintained for the user in response to changes in allowed services or organizational structure.”

Powers teaches “*and receive second user input identifying the first user or group of users and the second user or group of users from a second individual,*” see Fig. 4 and

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col. 7, lines 29-40, “In this way, access privileges may be easily updated and maintained for the user in response to changes in allowed services or organizational structure.”

7. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the instructions also cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to receive user input identifying the first activity from which the first user or group of users is excluded,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, ... and a fourth field enables the stored association between a user and a level or member in the user’s view,” where the claimed “first activity” is the referenced “Company.”

8. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the instructions cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to receive user input identifying an authorization level identifying the first activity,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, ... and a fourth field enables the stored association between a user and a level or member in the user’s view,” where the claimed “authorization level” is the referenced “Y” or “N.”

9. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the instructions cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to receive user input selecting the authorization level from a group of at least four authorization levels,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, ... and a fourth field enables the stored association between a user and a level or member in the user’s view,” where the claimed “authorization level” is the referenced “Y” or “N.”

11. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the instructions also cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to: receive user input identifying an operation performed with the tailored object,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 29-40, “In this way, access privileges may be easily updated and maintained for the user in response to changes in allowed services or organizational structure.”

Powers teaches “*and associate an operation identifier, the first identifier, and the first field to indicate that the first user or group of users is to be excluded from the first activity that involves the first field in the operation,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, ... and a fourth field enables the stored association between a user and a level or member in the user’s view,” where the claimed “first identifier” is the referenced “N” in the “Allowed” column of “User 10’s” “Company” field.

12. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the instructions cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to receive user input identifying a collaboration of at least two parties,*” see Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 47-61, “In the user view table 140, a first field identifies a user by user ID, ... a third field identifies whether the item in the second field is a level or a member,” where the claimed “collaboration” is indicated by the referenced “M.”

14. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 1, wherein: the first activity comprises display of contents of the first field,*” see Fig. 4.

Powers teaches “*and the second activity comprises display of contents of the second field,*” see Fig. 4.

15. Powers does not teach “*The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the instructions cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to create a graphical user interface to lead a user through the tailoring.*” Hansen does, however, see Fig. 2A. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because Hansen’s teachings would have allowed Powers’ method to gain the ability to create or modify an object class, see col. 4, lines 31-41.

16. Powers teaches “*The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the instructions cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to create the graphical user interface on a web browser,*” see col. 3, lines 12-19, “The client space 12 includes a web-browser 30 having a graphical user interface (GUI) 32. The graphical user interface 32 displays web pages 34 downloaded over the network 22 from the server application space 14.”

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Powers et al., U.S. 6,901,426 (“Powers”), in view of Hansen et al., U.S. 6,886,016 (“Hansen”), in view of Microsoft Computer Dictionary Fifth Edition, Microsoft Press, 2002 (“Microsoft”), and in view of Keinsley et al., U.S. 2003/0154403 (“Keinsley”).

10. Powers does not teach “*The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the instructions also cause the one or more data processing apparatuses to: identify a trigger.*” Hansen does, however, see Fig. 2A, where the claimed “trigger” is the referenced changing the Access List from “ACLPUBLIC” to another option in the drop down menu. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database art

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at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because Hansen's teachings would have allowed Powers' method to gain the ability to create or modify an object class, see col. 4, lines 31-41.

Powers and Hansen do not teach "*and based upon the identification of the trigger, end the association of the first identifier with the first field to indicate that the first user or group of users is no longer excluded from the first activity.*" Keinsley does, however, see par. 561, "Reinstate a User is equivalent to Register a User, where an existing user account is being used, where the user has been previously registered with the entity, and the status is Revoked. This results in reregistered and active status records being set up for the entity-user." Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the database art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because Keinsley's teachings would have allowed Hansen and Olds' method to gain the ability to reinstate a user after a suspension, see par. 561.

Response to Arguments

As per Applicant's argument that Powers and Hansen do not teach receiving user input tailoring an object class definition and instantiating an object therefrom that includes specified user permissions in the instantiated object, the Examiner respectfully disagrees in part. Powers teaches the specified user permissions while Hansen teaches tailoring an object class definition. Combined, Powers' permission attributes would be embedded in Hansen's class definitions and tailored using Hansen's interface. While instantiation and embedded attributes are inherently part of object oriented design as disclosed in Hansen, Microsoft explicitly teaches these features. Microsoft also provides

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the motivation for combining the references. That is, while Powers' permission tables are convenient, embedding that information within a class is even more convenient because of the advantages of object oriented design.

See also Bapat et al., U.S. 6,038,563, which teaches access control objects that collectively store information that specifies access rights by users to specified sets of the managed objects, and also shows the benefits of storing permission information within objects.

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure: U.S. 6,038,563.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron Sanders whose telephone number is 571-270-1016. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00a-4:00p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached on 571-272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tim T. Vo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
2168

/Aaron Sanders/
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7 January 2009